

Robert Southgate

Email us at: foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/browse/driving

Your Ref:
Our Ref: FOIR4337

Date: 9 January 2015

Dear Mr Southgate

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your e-mail dated 18 December requesting information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for:

- 1. Since 1 January 2012 how many enforcement notices have been issued by DVLA in respect of failing to notify change of keeper details?**

All answers to the questions raised refer to the time period 1 January 2012 to 18 December 2014.

During this period, DVLA issued 452,680 enforcement notices for failing to notify a change of keeper details.

- 2. In respect of the number of enforcement notices issued, how many were settled prior to the issue of a court summons?**

124,345 cases were settled prior to the issue of a court summons.

- 3. How many court summons were issued in respect of the total in question 1?**

89,114 court summons were issued for failing to notify change of keeper details.

- 4. In respect of the total in question 3, how many were settled by a payment prior to the case being referred to magistrates court?**

10,758 cases were settled by a payment after the summons was issued but prior to the case being heard at the Magistrates' court.

- 5. How many cases were actually referred to magistrates court when no payment offer was accepted?**

71,332 cases were heard at the Magistrates' court when no payment offer was made for the offence of failing to notify change of keeper details"?]

6. How many cases did DVLA offer no evidence in when the case reached the magistrates court?

DVLA withdrew 8230* cases listed for hearing in the magistrates court.

*This figure includes cases previously closed as successful prosecutions but reopened and closed with a revised code as a result of a statutory declaration made to the Magistrates' court. This will distort the total figure. A statutory declaration is a means for a person to declare to the Magistrates' court that they previously had no knowledge of the hearing of a case.

7. What were the reasons for offering no evidence and dropping the cases?

DVLA will withdraw cases listed for hearing on any given court date where valid mitigation not previously offered to the Agency is provided by a defendant which confirms their not guilty assertion. Each case is considered on an individual basis. DVLA does not hold a list of reasons why the case is withdrawn; this information would be held on the case file. In order to ascertain the reason why the case was withdrawn, DVLA would have to manually access each of the 8,230 cases to extract this information. We estimate this to exceed £600.

Under Section 12 of the FOI Act, DVLA is not obliged to comply with a request where the estimated cost of determining, locating, retrieving and/or extracting the information exceeds £600. As it is DVLA's policy not to respond to requests for information that would exceed the appropriate cost limit, I am afraid that the information will not be supplied to you.

The information which follows concerns the procedures for making any complaint you might have about the reply. Please quote the reference number of this letter in any future communications about it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robert Toft', with a large loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ppRobert Toft
Head of Data Sharing Policy & Freedom of Information Team

Your right to complain to DVLA and the Information Commissioner

If you are not happy with the reply to your request, you can ask DVLA to re-consider the response you received by writing (within two calendar months of receiving this response) to either foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk or DVLA Freedom of Information Team, DSPG/FOI, D16, DVLA, Swansea SA6 7JL.

DVLA will acknowledge and consider your request, re-visiting the response provided. This is known as an Internal Review and will be considered by a staff member not involved with the original reply.

If you disagree with the outcome of the Internal Review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information can be found via: www.ico.org.uk/concerns/getting Alternatively you may wish to write to: Customer Contact, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.